

Appl. No. 10/010,391
Atty. Docket No. 8384R
Amtd. dated December 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29 with the following paragraph:

As shown in Figure 2, the exterior casing 14 may also comprise a generally horizontal base wall 18. The base wall 18 may form an end 17 to the device 10 for attachment to the interior body 20 at either the inlet opening 23 or the outlet opening 24. Preferably, the end 17 is attached at the outlet opening 24. The interior body 20 is generally parallel to and incased by the casing wall 16, forming between them a storage space 30. The exterior casing 14 (with or without the base wall 18) may attach to the interior body 20, such that the casing wall 16 encases the passageway 25. The base wall 18 and/or the end 17 of the surrounding casing wall 16 may join with the body 20. The casing 14 and the body 20 define a storage space 30 there between, as well as a dispensing opening 32 near an inlet end 12. A flexible tubular sheet 51, having a length and a circumference, occupies the storage space 30. The flexible tubular sheet 51 is used to surround and package an article 100. As shown in Figure 2, the dispensing opening 32 has an annular gap 33 out through which a leading portion 52 of the tubular sheet 51 can be dispensed from the storage space 30. The article 100 to be packaged is inserted into the device 10 through the inlet opening 23, passes through the passageway 25, during which it is enclosed in the tubular sheet to form the packaged article 105. The article 100 is passed through the outlet opening 24, sealed, and separated from the device 10. The device 10 has a vertical axis 101 along the symmetrical center of the passageway 25 as shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3. The device 10 also has a horizontal axis 111 perpendicular to the vertical axis as shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3. In one embodiment, the device has a compact dimension of a height along the vertical axis 101

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of less than 20 centimeters and a width along the horizontal axis of less than 17 centimeters.